

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3436

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AFDROUGHT

SUBJECT: ALLOCATIONS THROUGH WFP OF SAHEL GRAIN

REF: A. ROME 0754

B. ROME 2303

1. ALTHOUGH CONVERSATIONS WITH FARNHAM ENDED ESSENTIALLY ON CONCEPT THAT WFP WOULD CONTINUE PROCESS PROJECT PROPOSALS TO WHICH U.S. WOULD REACT, THIS APPROACH IS CAUSING PROBLEMS IN ABSENCE GUIDANCE ON PROSPECTIVE TOTAL AVAILABILITY. DAVIS HAS REPORTED HIS IMPRESSION ON BASIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON U.S. WOULD BE WILLING INCREASE SET-ASIDE FROM 25,000 TO 43,000. ON THIS ASSUMPTION, PROJECT PROPOSALS DISCUSSED WITH FARNHAM TOTALED 18,300. HOWEVER SOME OF THESE PROJECT FIGURES ARE ADJUSTABLE EITHER WAY, CONCEIVABLE COULD GIVE WAY TO OTHER PRIORITIES, AND WHAT WFP WOULD PROPOSE REALLY DEPENDS ON AMOUNT AVAILABLE. REQUEST AID/W INDICATE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL SET-ASIDE AID/W WILLING MAKE PROJECT PROPOSALS CAN BE FIRMED UP.

2. ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS THROUGH WFP HAS THE "TWO BIRD" ADVANTAGE TO U.S. (DRAW DOWN AGAINST PLEDGE AS WELL AS EMERGENCY SEEDING), PARTICULARLY TO EXTENT U.S. INTENDS MAKE
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ADDITIONAL COUNTRY ALLOCATION ANYWAY. PROPOSED 5000 TONS THROUGH

WFP FOR EMERGENCY FEEDING MAURITANIA WOULD BE DIRECT OFFSET, AND PROPOSED RISES IN NIGER MALI (ALSO CHAD AND UPPER VOLTA IF U.S. HAS ANY INTENTION INCREASE THOSE ALLOCATIONS) WOULD APPEAR SERVE SAME GENERAL PURPOSES. ONLY EXCEPTION TO U.S. PRIORITIES AGAIN DEPENDING ON WHETHER U.S. INTENDS MAKE ALLOCATION, IN GAMBIA FOR WHICH WFP NOW PROPOSING 5000 TONS INSTEAD OF EARLIER 6800, (WHETHER AMOUNTS ALREADY APPROVED FOR SENEGAL TAKES CARE OF POLITICAL/ RELATIONSHIPS ISSUE INVOLVED IS HARD TO JUDGE FROM HERE).

3. UPPER PARAMETER FOR ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION THROUGH WFP IS ABOUT 35,000 TONS. IF ONLY ABOUT HALF THAT AMOUNT IS AVAILABLE CURRENT THINKING IN WFP IS TO SCALE DOWN NIGER 2133Q TO 4000 TONS, USE 5000 FOR MAURITANIA 2000 CHAD AND (PRESUMABLY WE COULD INFLUENCE JUDGMENT BOTH ON COUNTRY AND AMOUNT) 5000 GAMBIA. NEXT IN TERMS READINESS IS UPPER VOLTA 2135Q 5400 TONS. OTHERS ARE AS SUMMARIZED REF B AND LISTED JOSHI 19 FEBRUARY MEMO TO SKILES, COPIES SENT HAUSCHNER AND FARNHAM FEBRUARY 21.

4. RECOMMENDATION: APPEARS TO U.S. ADVANTAGE TO CHANNEL CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONAL TONNAGE THROUGH WFP RATHER THAN BILATERALLY, INCLUDING WHATEVER QUANTITY U.S. WILLING MAKE AVAILABLE GAMBIA. PROPOSE MINIMUM 18-20,000 TONS. REQUEST ADVICE SOONEST TOGETHER WITH ANY GUIDANCE AS TO PREFERRED RECIPIENTS. VOLPE

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